

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for distillatively preparing toluylenediamine (TDA) from a reactant stream comprising TDA, high boilers and low boilers in a dividing wall column in which a dividing wall is disposed in the longitudinal direction of the column to form an upper combined column region, a lower combined column region, a feed section having a rectifying section and stripping section, and also a withdrawal section having a rectifying section and stripping section, which comprises the following steps:

- a. feeding the reactant stream into the feed section of the dividing wall column;
- b. drawing off a low boiler fraction via the top of the column;
- c. drawing off TDA via a side draw in the withdrawal section of the dividing wall column;
- d. drawing off a low boiler fraction via the bottom of the column.

Claim 2 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein a portion of the high boiler fraction drawn off via the bottom of the column is fed back to the dividing wall column via a side feed in the lower combined column region.

Claim 3 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein a portion of the low boiler fraction drawn off via the top of the column is fed back to the dividing wall column via a side feed in the upper combined column region.

Claim 4 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the reactant feed and the side draw for product withdrawal are disposed at the same height in the dividing wall column.

Claim 5 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the reactant feed and the side draw for product withdrawal are disposed at different height in the dividing wall column.

Claim 6 (Original): The process of claim 5, wherein the side draw for product withdrawal is offset by from 5 to 15 theoretical plates from the reactant feed.

Claim 7 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the distillation is carried out at a pressure in the column bottom of ≤ 1 bar.

Claim 8 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the distillation is carried out at a pressure in the column bottom of ≤ 0.2 bar.

Claim 9 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the distillation is carried out at a pressure in the column bottom of ≤ 0.1 bar.

Claim 10 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the bottom temperature is below 250°C.

Claim 11 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the bottom temperature is below 230°C.

Claim 12 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the bottom temperature is below 220°C.